

Bp. Consp. i. p. 135 (1850); Reichenb. Handb. Scans. Picinæ, p. 370, Taf. dxxxvi. figs. 4236–4238 (1854); Gray, List Picid. Brit. Mus. p. 41 (1868); id. Hand-l. B. ii. p. 184. no. 8585 (1870).

Picus kisuki, Temm. Tabl. Méth. p. 64 (1836); id. & Schleg. Faun. Japon. p. 74, Taf. xxxvii. (1850); Malh. Monogr. Picid. i. 154, pl. xxxvi. figs. 1, 2 (1861); Sundev. Consp. Av. Picin. p. 28 (1866).

Picus zizuki, Gray, Gen. B. ii. p. 435 (1845); Jerd. B. Ind. i. p. 279 (1862).

Yungipicus kisuki, Bp. Consp. Volucr. Zygod. p. 8 (1854).

Picus kogera, Malh. Monogr. Picid. i. p. 154 (1861, MSS. ex spec. olim in Mus. Zool. Soc.).

Bæopipo kisuki, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. Th. iv. p. 60 (1863).

2. IYNGIPICUS SEEBOHMI.

Picus kizuki (non Temm.), Swinh. Ibis, 1875, p. 451; Blakiston & Pryer, op. cit. 1878, p. 229; Seebohm, op. cit. 1879, p. 29.

Picus kisuki, Blakist. Ibis, 1862, p. 325.

Iyngipicus kizuki, Hargitt, Ibis, 1882, p. 36.

XI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. Booth's Rough Notes on British Birds.

[Rough Notes on the Birds observed during Twenty Years' Shooting and Collecting in the British Islands. By E. T. Booth. With Plates from drawings by E. Neale, taken from specimens in the Author's possession. Part IV. Folio. London: 1883. Published by R. H. Porter, 6 Tenterden Street, W.]

In Part iv. of this work the illustrations by Mr. E. Neale are of the Raven, Crossbill, Grey-headed and Yellow Wagtails, the Scandinavian form of the Rock-Pipit, Black Redstart, Wheatear, and Willow-Wren, the letterpress treating of some of the British Wagtails, Pipits, Redstarts, Chats, and a few of the Warblers. Mr. Booth's observations, based entirely upon his personal experience, cannot fail to be valuable; and

his remarks upon the geographical distribution of many of the species, as regards the British Islands, are of considerable interest. The illustration of the first plumage of *Motacilla raii* will probably challenge criticism; but we have seen specimens nearly, if not quite, as distinctly spotted with blackish brown on the throat and upper part of the breast. As regards the vinous-breasted birds which Mr. Booth considers to be the Scandinavian form of *Anthus obscurus*, they appear to have changed their line of flight during the past ten years, none being now obtained near Brighton, where they were formerly plentiful on migration. It is somewhat remarkable that a field-naturalist of Mr. Booth's experience should not have been able to trace the Grasshopper Warbler beyond Norfolk: he can hardly have been in Northumberland in summer, for scarcely in any other county in England is the bird so common, especially on the Cheviots.

2. *British Association's Report on Migration in 1882.*

[Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1882. By Mr. John A. Harvie-Brown, Mr. John Cordeaux, Mr. R. M. Barrington, and Mr. A. G. More. 8vo. London: 1883.]

This fourth Report is satisfactory, inasmuch as it shows that the keepers of lighthouses and lightships continue to take an interest in the scheme of observations, and some of their contributions are of considerable value. A feature of the year was the enormous migration of Golderests (*Regulus cristatus*), extending from the Færoes, to the north, along the entire east coast of Scotland and England (inclusive of Heligoland) down to Guernsey; and scarcely less remarkable was the great flight of the Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*). Among the rare occurrences are those of *Oriolus galbula* so far north as Lerwick in Shetland; a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*) on Loch Lomond; an Eastern Pied Chat (*Saxicola morio*) on Heligoland, where, by the way, a Little Bustard (*Otis tetrax*) was also obtained for the first time; an Alpine Swift (*Cypselus melba*) in Northum-

berland; and a Red-breasted Snipe (*Macrorhamphus griseus*) in Lincolnshire.

3. 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.'

[Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club: a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. viii., October 1883. No. 4.]

As will be seen by the report of the proceedings of the foundation-meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, which we have given above in full, the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' has now become the Journal of the A. O. U., and will reappear in this form in January next under the editorship of Mr. J. A. Allen. The number now before us therefore concludes the present series of the 'Bulletin.' It contains several very interesting articles.

Messrs. Allen and Brewster finish their list of the birds observed in the vicinity of Colorado Springs in the spring of 1882, and notice the occurrence of specimens of *Junco aikenii*, *Cypselus saxatilis*, and other scarce species. Mr. W. B. Barron continues his acceptable notes on the birds of the Lower Uruguay, and records valuable particulars of the nesting-habits of many little-known birds, amongst which are twelve of the Synallaxine group. *Phacellodomus sibilatrix*, Doering, is said to be abundant among the open woods along the Uruguay. Dr. C. Hart Merriam records the occurrence of *Vireo flavo-viridis* in the province of Quebec. Mr. Brewster describes an "apparently new Gull," allied to *Larus glaucescens*, as *Larus kumlieni*. The new species is based on three specimens obtained in Cumberland Sound, Bay of Fundy, and near Grand Menan. Finally Dr. Merriam records the breeding of the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus minutus*) in Newfoundland.

4. D'Aubusson's 'Birds of France.'

[Les oiseaux de la France, par Louis Magaud D'Aubusson. Première monographie, Corvidés. Histoire Naturelle générale et particulière des Passereaux Déodactyles Cultrirostres observées en France. Figures colo-

riées de toutes les espèces, de leurs variétés et de leurs œufs. Planches ostéologiques lithographiées. Paris: Imprimerie de A. Quantin, 7 Rue Saint-Benoit. 1883. Quarto, 168 pp., 20 plates.]

It is pleasant to welcome a new labourer in the field of ornithological literature, and M. D'Aubusson's coloured figures are certainly superior to the ordinary product of the French lithographer. But we must say we are disappointed with the letterpress, which seems to contain little original, and is hardly likely to supersede existing authorities on the birds of France.

5. Gould's '*Birds of Asia*.'

[The Birds of Asia. By J. Gould, F.R.S. Dedicated to the Honourable East India Company. Part XXXV. Folio. London: 1883.]

The thirty-fifth part of the '*Birds of Asia*,' which concludes the work, contains figures of the following species:—

Argusianus argus.	Iyngipicus peninsularis.
Leiothrix laurinae.	Iyngipicus nanus.
Indicator xanthonotus.	Uragus sibiricus.
Iyngipicus gymnophthalmus.	

The number also contains the title-pages and lists of plates for the seven volumes in which it is proposed that the work shall be bound, and the preface and introduction by Mr. Sharpe. The latter contains so much matter of general interest concerning the recent progress of our knowledge of Asiatic ornithology that, with the author's consent, we have reprinted it in this Journal*.

6. Hartlaub on the Genus *Hyliota*.

[Die Gattung *Hyliota*, Sw., monographische Skizze von Dr. G. Hartlaub. (Separatabdr. aus Cab. J. f. Orn. Jahrg. 1883.) Juli-Heft. Naumburg am S., 1883.]

Dr. Hartlaub's excellent monographic sketch of the African Muscicapine genus *Hyliota* is, we need hardly say, as complete as such an essay can be made with the present state of

* See above, p. 49.

our knowledge. Four species are recognized and carefully described, of which *Hyliota barboza*, from Benguela, is now first described.

7. *Nelson on the Birds of Bering Sea.*

[Cruise of the Revenue-Steamer 'Corwin' in Alaska and the N.W. Arctic Ocean in 1881. Washington: 1883. 1 vol. 4to.—Birds of Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. By E. W. Nelson. Pp. 55–118.]

On the 21st June, 1881, the 'Corwin' left St. Michaels, Alaska, in search of traces of the ill-fated 'Jeannette' and two missing whaling-ships. Fortunately for ornithology, Mr. Nelson, who had long been at St. Michaels, was taken on board for this cruise, in the course of which all the islands in Bering's Straits, Herald and Wrangel Islands, the Siberian shore from the Straits to the North Cape, and the entire Alaskan coast-line from the Straits to Point Barrow were visited. As supplementing the observations of Dall and Bannister on the American, and Nordenskiöld on the Siberian avifauna, Mr. Nelson's observations are of the highest interest, and he has also availed himself of the notes of Mr. Newcomb, the naturalist to the 'Jeannette,' Dr. T. H. Bean, and Mr. Elliot.

The Emperor Goose (*Bernicla canagica*), which appears to have the most restricted range of any American Goose, was found in abundance on the south-western portion of St. Lawrence Island, and again on the Bering sea-coast of Alaska from Cape Vancouver to the mouth of the Yukon, north of which it becomes rare. On the opposite coast of Siberia it is also met with where the shore is low and bordered by lagoons; and there also Steller's Eider and the King Eider occur in great abundance. The islands of Bering's Straits and the Diomed Islands are all resorted to by the Crested, Parrot-billed, and Least Auks; and some small rocky islets in the Aleutian group are the breeding-places of the beautiful grey Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*)—not to be confounded with Leach's Petrel, which is often called by the above trivial name. Mr. Nelson's observations on the once rare Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) are of much interest,

and encourage us to hope that in a few years, at most, ornithologists will be acquainted with it eggs and nestlings. We had been aware since May 1882 that Mr. Newcomb, of the 'Jeannette,' had obtained eight specimens, but we did not know until recently that, when it was a question of saving their bare lives, and the necessities of existence which each one of the shipwrecked crew could carry had to be weighed literally by the ounce, Mr. Newcomb gallantly stuck to three of these birds, and brought them in safety across Asia and Europe to the Smithsonian Institution. He probably remembered that the Austro-Hungarian Expedition obtained one at Franz-Josef Land, but abandoned it with the 'Tegetthoff,' and determined that he should not be reproached with the same want of enthusiasm. In the records of collecting we can call to mind no similar instance of bull-dog tenacity. Mr. Nelson obtained another Ross's Gull in the mottled plumage of the first year in October, which made four altogether in the Smithsonian at the time of writing his contribution; and we understand that this summer some further examples have been obtained near Point Barrow. The above are only some of the salient features of this valuable memoir, which will amply repay perusal.

8. *Oates's 'Birds of British Burmah.'*

[A Handbook to the Birds of British Burmah, including those found in the adjoining State of Karennee. By Eugene W. Oates, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department of India (British Burmah). London: R. H. Porter and Dulau & Co. Vol. II. June 1883. (Completing the Work.)]

Of the excellent style of Mr. Oates's work, and of the admirable way in which he has carried out his plan of a handbook of the birds of British Burmah, we have already spoken in our notice of his first volume (*Ibis*, 1883, p. 380). Of the second volume, which treats of all the remaining orders after the Passeres, and completes the work, we need only say that it has been prepared in the same manner and merits equal praise. Few persons who come home from India on two years' leave would like to undertake such a

task or, what is still more important, would bring it to such a successful conclusion.

The total number of species recognized by Mr. Oates as at present known to belong to the avifauna of British Burmah is 780, of which no less than 401 are Passeres, indicating the great development attained by this multitudinous order in the rich regions of the eastern tropics. But large as is the list, our author assures us that it cannot be considered by any means complete. "Much remains to reward the explorer on the higher mountains both of Arakan and Tenasserim."

Mr. Oates seems to have made (p. 6) a new generic name, "*Rhaphidura*," for *Acanthylis leucopygialis* and *A. sylvatica*. A coloured map attached to the introduction will greatly add to the comfort of those using the 'Handbook to the Birds of British Burmah,' which we can conscientiously recommend to ornithologists as a most useful and well-executed work.

9. Oustalet on Birds from Somali-land.

[Faune et Flore des Pays Çomalis (Afrique Orientale), par Georges Révoil. 8vo. Paris: 1882. Note sur les oiseaux recueillis dans le pays des Çomalis par M. G. Révoil, par M. E. Oustalet.]

M. Oustalet contributes to M. Révoil's volume an account of the birds collected in Somali-land. They consisted of 29 specimens, referable to 21 species. Amongst them is a new Bee-eater, named *Merops revoillii* and figured. Other little-known species are *Lanius dorsalis* and *Amydrus blythi*.

10. Pelzeln on Birds from Ecuador.

[Ueber eine Sendung von Säugethieren und Vögeln aus Ecuador. Von August von Pelzeln. Verh. der k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesell. Wien, 1882, p. 443.]

Herr v. Pelzeln gives an account of a collection of mammals and birds from Ecuador received by Graf Salis-Seewis and entrusted to him for determination. The birds are referred to about 60 different species, amongst which two are

described as new under the names *Myiodioides meridionalis* and *Elainia ferrugineiceps*. Other rarities are *Geothlypis semiflava*, *Setophaga bairdi*, *Conurus weddelli*, and *Attagis chimborazensis*.

11. Pelzeln on Birds from Central Africa.

[Ueber Dr. Emin Bey's dritte Sendung von Vögeln aus Central-Afrika. Von August von Pelzeln. Verh. der k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesell. Wien, 1882, p. 499.]

The present collection of the energetic Governor of the Equatorial Provinces of Egypt contains examples of 72 species, amongst which one (*Argya amaouroura*, from Fadibek) is described as new. *Lanius pyrrhostictus*, lately discovered by Dr. Holub in the Central Transvaal, is also represented in the collection.

12. Reichenow on the Birds of Zoological Gardens.

[Die Vögel der zoologischen Gärten. Leitfaden zum Studium der Ornithologie mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der in Gefangenschaft gehaltenen Vögel. Ein Handbuch für Vogelwirthe. Von Dr. Ant. Reichenow. In zwei Theilen. 8vo. Leipzig: 1882.]

This is the first part of a new compendium of ornithology, with special reference to birds kept in zoological gardens. Little is given besides short descriptions of the principal genera and species, and an indication of their localities. The classification is peculiar, and begins with the Struthioness, advancing upwards. The present part concludes with the Owls.

13. Ridgway on new Birds from the Commander Islands and Petropaulovsky.

[Description of some Birds, supposed to be undescribed, from the Commander Islands and Petropaulovsky, collected by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, U.S. Signal Service. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 90.]

These new species are based on specimens in the collection of Dr. Stejneger, of whose interesting letters from Bering

Island we have already given a short notice (Ibis, 1883, p. 582). They are :—(1) *Haliaetus hypoleucus*, “perhaps an eastern representative of *H. albicilla*,” with the “entire underparts white;” (2) *Acrocephalus dybowskii*; (3) *Anorthura pallescens*; (4) *Hirundo saturata*, allied to *H. erythrogastra*; (5) *Anthus stejnegeri*, proposed as an alternative new name if the species be not identical with *A. japonicus* of the ‘Fauna Japonica,’ of which no copy is accessible to the describer!

14. Ridgway on *Motacilla ocularis*.

[On the probable identity of *Motacilla ocularis*, Swinhoe, and *M. amurensis*, Seebohm, with Remarks on allied supposed Species. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 144.]

Mr. Ridgway considers that it is “conclusively proved” by the series of specimens in the National Museum that *M. ocularis* is “only the summer adult male of *M. amurensis*, which has the back black, while the fully adult female is undistinguishable from *M. ocularis*, or else that these two birds are identical, the former representing the adult male and the latter the adult female, or perhaps in winter both sexes.” But see Mr. Seebohm’s remarks, *suprà* p. 39.

15. Ridgway on new Birds from Lower California.

[Descriptions of some new Birds from Lower California. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 155.]

These discoveries of Mr. Belding are named *Lophophanes inornatus cinereus*, *Psaltiriparus grindæ*, and *Junco bairdi*.

16. Ridgway on a new American Pipit.

[*Anthus cervinus* (Pallas) in Lower California. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 156.]

Mr. Ridgway was at first inclined to refer a single specimen of an *Anthus* obtained by Mr. Belding in Lower California in the winter of 1882–83 to a new species. Having found three specimens of the same species in a collection from the coast of China, he was led to make

further researches, and finally to identify it with *Anthus cervinus*, which is thus introduced into the North-American list.

17. *Ridgway on Merula confinis.*

[Note on *Merula confinis*. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 158.]

The type specimen of *Merula confinis*, discovered by Xantus at Todos Santos, in Lower California, in 1860, has hitherto remained unique. Mr. Belding has now, however, transmitted two additional examples, and there is no question that the species is one of "pronounced characters."

18. *Saunders's Edition of Yarrell's 'Birds.'*

[A History of British Birds. By the late William Yarrell, V.P.L.S., F.Z.S. Fourth Edition. Revised to the end of the Second Volume by Alfred Newton, M.A., F.R.S., continued by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S. Parts XV.-XX. November 1882-December 1883.]

The six parts issued during the past thirteen months contain the Pigeons, Pallas's Sand-Grouse, the Game-birds, Rails, Crane, Bustards, Plovers, and the majority of the Sandpipers. There is good reason to expect that the whole work will be completed by the middle of 1885.

19. *Schalow on Böhm's Collections from East Africa.*

[Die ornithologischen Sammlungen Dr. R. Böhm's aus Ost-Afrika. Nach den schriftlichen Notizen des Reisenden bearbeitet von Herman Schalow. Separatabdr. aus Cab. J. f. Orn. 1883.]

The present collection of Dr. Böhm contains examples of 161 species from Zanzibar, the Ugogo district, and Kakoma, mostly from the last-named locality (32° 29' E. and 5° 47' S.), which was the headquarters of the German Expedition for the exploration of Eastern Africa up to August 1881. Here, at the furthest point in a south-western direction in Eastern Africa that naturalists have yet reached, Central-African forms, such as *Parus rufiventris*, Bocage, hitherto only known from the interior districts of Angola, begin to be met with. The new species of Dr. Böhm's collections have been already

described in the Journ. f. Orn., eight (*Melittophagus boehmi*, *Parisoma boehmi*, *Poliospiza reichardi*, *Parus griseiventris*, *Tricholais citriniceps*, *Drymæca pyrrhoptera*, *D. undosa*, and *Bradyornis grisea*) by Dr. Reichenow and one (*Chætura boehmi*) by Herr Schalow. Critical remarks and collector's notes are appended to each species. Another collection of Dr. Böhm's from the shores of Lake Tanganyika is on the road home.

20. Stearns on the Natural History of Labrador.

[Notes on the Natural History of Labrador. By W. A. Stearns. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1883, p. 111.]

Mr. Stearns gives a list of the mammals, birds, and plants collected during several expeditions along the coast which he made in 1875, 1880–81, and 1882, in company, on the last occasion, with a party of twelve young collegemen, by whom much good work was done. The birds enumerated, with short notes to each, are 111 in number, a few being added on the authority of Dr. Coues. Mr. Stearns asserts that *Somateria v-nigrum** is "abundant in large flocks in spring," though he does not appear to have secured specimens. The King Eider (*S. spectabilis*) was found breeding on a small island opposite Mingan by Mr. N. A. Comeau.

21. Vorderman's 'Birds of Batavia.'

[Bataviasche Vogels door A. G. Vorderman. Part IV. Overgedrukt uit het Natuurk. Tijds. Nederl. Indië, Deel xliii. Afl. i.]

The fourth part of Herr Vorderman's essays on Batavian birds contains descriptions of 23 species. *Coryllis* (melius *Loriculus*) *galgulus* is an addition to the Javan Psittacidæ. *Trichogramoptila* (q. *Munia*?) *leucogastroides* is one of the commonest birds round Batavia, and nests within the city.

22. Watson on the Penguins.

[Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger.'

* Not *Somateria v-nigra* (as written), as the adjective should agree with *v*, which is neuter by tradition.

Zoology, Vol. VII. Part XVIII. Report on the Anatomy of the Spheniscidæ. By Prof. Morrison Watson, M.D., F.R.S.E.]

Prof. Watson's exhaustive treatise on the anatomy of the Penguins is based on specimens of eight species of this group collected during the voyage of the 'Challenger,' together with additional specimens from other quarters. The present Report relates only to the anatomy of the *adult* forms of these species, it being proposed to treat of the young and embryonic forms in a second memoir.

Taking the *Eudyptes chrysocome* of Tristan d'Acunha as a standard of comparison, the author enters at full length into the osteology, arthrology, myology, angiology, neurology, and splanchnology of these birds with a completeness of detail which leaves little to be desired. He then proceeds to speak of the subdivision of the Spheniscidæ, and makes the following remarks on the generic divisions in general use:—

"The various species of Penguins which I have had an opportunity of examining have been arranged by ornithologists, relying on the consideration of skins and feathers, into five genera, namely, *Aptenodytes*, *Pygosceles*, *Spheniscus*, *Eudyptes*, and *Eudyptila*. Such are the genera to be found in Gray's 'Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds,' and, with the exception of *Eudyptila*, in Selater's Report on the Birds collected by the 'Challenger.' The examination of the complete anatomy of these birds appears to me, so far as the species examined are concerned, to lead to the conclusion that they ought all to be included within the limits of three genera—*Aptenodytes*, *Spheniscus*, and *Eudyptes*.

"In accordance with this view, the genus *Aptenodytes* would include the two species *longirostris* and *teniatus*. The anatomy of these two birds, although presenting specific differences, does not, as it seems to me, justify their separation as types of *two* distinct genera, seeing that in every anatomical point which can be considered of generic value *Pygosceles* and *Aptenodytes* entirely agree. This much may certainly be said without fear of contradiction, that in respect of their anatomy, *Pygosceles* and *Aptenodytes* differ less from one another than do undoubtedly distinct species

of either the genus *Eudyptes* or *Spheniscus*. In all essential points of their anatomy, moreover, these two birds differ similarly from that of the members of other genera."

From a second important disquisition, on "the origin of the Penguins," we extract the following remarks:—

"So far as the metatarsal bones are concerned, it appears, from the observations of Gegenbaur, that even in those birds in which the metatarsal bones ultimately fuse to form a single undivided mass, these bones originally present the form of four distinct and separate elements. It seems therefore, if conclusions based upon embryology are of any value, that we must conclude that birds, as we now know them, were derived from an ancestral group, the members of which, along with other peculiarities, were possessed of at least four distinct and separable metatarsal bones. These four bones were originally separate and distinct, but subsequently became more or less completely fused together to form the single metatarsal bone which is characteristic of the majority of birds. Inasmuch as the Penguins retain the individuality of the separate metatarsal bones to a greater extent than other birds, it would appear that they are the modern representatives of a group which had diverged from the primitive avian stem at a time when as yet the metatarsal bones had neither lost their individuality nor had become fused together to form the single bone, which is one of the characteristics of the majority of birds of the present day.

"This conclusion can only be denied on the supposition that the earliest members of the group of the Spheniscidæ were derivatives from the avian stem at a period when the separate metatarsal bones had been already fused to form a single mass, as in modern birds, a supposition which appears to the last degree improbable, when we consider that, in accepting it, we must suppose that the avian metatarsal bones must, in the first instance, have undergone coalescence, and thereafter became differentiated from one another in the members of one particular group, and in one only. It would therefore appear that the group Spheniscidæ is one of considerable antiquity, and that it must have diverged from the

avian stem at a time when as yet the metatarsal bones formed distinct and independent entities in the members of the entire class of birds."

Nineteen admirably executed plates illustrate this excellent memoir.

XII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis':—

6 Oxford and Cambridge Mansions,
12th November, 1883.

SIRS,—No one who has perused the last Journal of the late W. A. Forbes, which is published in 'The Ibis' for October, can fail to admire the spirit with which, in spite of failing health, he attempted to carry out the project he had in view, and his devotion to the last to the cause of Ornithology. Nor will any one deny that the proposal made by Capt. Shelley in the same number of 'The Ibis,' to rename a species which Mr. Forbes procured on the Niger, *Ægialitis forbesi*, is a well-deserved tribute to his memory, although I am one of those who think that the practice of naming species after individuals is now-a-days far too common.

Circumstances which I need not here detail, led me to describe the same species in 'The Zoologist' for October, and to propose for it the name of *Ægialitis nigris*. On reflection, I think that I should have done better had I stated that I believed Capt. Shelley had proposed to call it *Ægialitis forbesi*, and had expressed my concurrence in that course.

Under the circumstances I propose that the name suggested by me should be treated as a synonym, and that the species should stand as *Ægialitis forbesi*, Shelley.

I am, &c.,

J. E. HARTING.

74 Jernyn Street, St. James's,
November 16th, 1883.

SIRS,—Happening to be at Turin on Wednesday, the 31st